Poor monitoring of telecom companies

*515. SHRI S.M. LAUJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) The present members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and since when they have been appointed alongwith their tenure and responsibilities;

(b) to what extent the TRAI has been to use of phone subscribers;

(c) the steps proposed to make the TRAI accountable for poor monitoring of telecom companies;

(d) the details of mandatory meetings and public hearings; and

(e) the *suo-moto* action taken on collecting higher tariff from public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The present composition of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India along with their date of assumption of office is as below:

Sl. No.	Name & Designation	Date of Assumption of office
1.	Shri Nripendra Misra, Chairman	22nd March, 2006
2.	Shri A.K. Sawhney, Member (whole time)	30th June, 2006
3.	Shri R.N. Prabhakar, member (whole time)	27th February, 2007
4.	Prof. N. Balakrishnan, Member (part time)	26th September, 2006
5.	Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Member (part time)	23rd January, 2007

All these members including Chairman have tenure of three years from the date of assumption of their office. The functions of the Authority are discharged by the Members and the decisions are taken in the meeting of the Authority as enunciated in Section 8 of the TRAI Act.

(b) Right from its inception TRAI has taken a number of steps in the telecom sector including a separate Quality of Service Regulation to protect the interests of subscribers. The measures have resulted in overall benefits

to the consumer in terms of choice of services, reduced tariff of telecom services, better Quality of Services etc.

(c) TRAI does vigorous monitoring of the performance of the service providers through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports, Network Congestion Reports and Independent Agency Audit. TRAI also submits to DOT at the end of every Quarter returns and statement stipulated in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Annual Report and Returns) Rules, 1999. The statement *inter alia* includes periodical survey conducted to monitor quality of service, steps taken to achieve the USO, research and studies conducted including those conducted outside India etc.

Also the accountability of TRAI towards Parliament is ensured through the Annual Reports of TRAI detailing summary of its activity at the end of every financial year and through the Regulations framed by it, which are laid on the table of both the Houses of Parliament.

(d) No mandatory meetings and public hearings have been prescribed by TRAI Act. However, TRAI has taken several metings with service providers relating to Quality of Service as well as open house discussions, interactive seminars with various stakeholders etc.

(e) Tariff for various telecommunications services are notified by TRAI as Telecommunications Tariff Orders (TTO). Currently tariff for telecom services is under forbearance except rural, free call allowances and local call carges in the case of fixed line rural subscribers, roaming services in mobile telephony and for leased circuits. Service Providers have the flexibility to fix tariffs for the services that are forborne by the Authority. TRAI in its Regulation on Quality of Service (Code of Practice for Metering and Billing Accurancy), 2006 has prescribed auditing of metering and billing system of service providers.

Preparations for Commonweath Games

*516. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of preparations for Commonwealth Games;

(b) whether there are any problems being faced at any level;